Welcome to Term 3, Week 3 - August 2012

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabey

It is hard to believe that it is already Week 3 of Term 3 of this year. I hope that everybody has repriorised their energy for the last 2 terms of this school year.

In July, the universal Church celebrated the feast of St Charbel. We thank the Lord for this great saint and we ask St Charbel to pray for us to gain the spiritual graces we need to gain the glory of Heaven. Our Parish held a week of spiritual events to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, and now preparations have begun for St Charbel’s Annual Fundraising Dinner which will be held at St Charbel’s Multi-Purpose Hall on Saturday 13 October 2012. All funds raised from this event will go towards St Charbel’s Nursing Home, a much needed project for our community. On the night, there will also be a raffle to win a brand new Ford Fiesta. Raffle tickets can be purchased through the College and the Monastery. We hope that you will support this project and we thank you in advance.

Over the coming days, the High School students will receive a copy of the book ‘In Someone Else’s Shoes’ by Mr Joseph Assaf. In this book, Mr Assaf shares his story as an immigrant and his expertise in multiculturalism in Australia and overseas. Mr Assaf is generously donating the books to our students for free and has asked that families donate to St Anthony’s School in Chekka, Lebanon in return. Donations will be made through St Charbel’s College and we will then send the money on your behalf to St Anthony’s School. A letter will be sent with the book explaining how to send the donations. We thank you for your generosity and we hope you enjoy reading the book.

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We look up to Mary’s life, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and, above all, her virgin love for her God, her maternal love for her Divine Son, and their motherly and compassionate love for us, her sinful children. We ask for her intercession for us before God and for her prayers so we can become like her.

Chaplaincy Services at St Charbel’s College

It is with great pleasure that we inform you that Fr Dany Akiki has been appointed as School Chaplain at St Charbel’s College. Fr Dany is an experienced priest and has worked in different schools and parishes and with young people.

The role of the Chaplain is to provide spiritual, religious, ethical, pastoral and personal support and care to students, families and staff. He also participates in the social and academic life of the College. Students are encouraged to make an appointment if they need to discuss any matters.

Fr Dany will be available for appointments on Tuesdays. To book an appointment, please contact the College Office on 9740 0999.

 principal.jpg

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The Secondary students also enjoyed the Athletics Carnival on Friday 27 July 2012. We were blessed with excellent weather and a great spirit of participation and competition was in the air. Many thanks to Mr Frederick Zalloua and the Sports Department for their organisation and congratulations to the Yellow House on their victory.

Over the coming weeks, our Year 12 students will sit their HSC Exams in preparation for the final HSC exams in October. We keep them in our prayers hoping that they will come well prepared and avoid any last minute stress.

On another note, Book Week 2012 will be taking place in the Library from Monday 20 August to Friday 24 August. The theme this year is “Champions Read” with lots of activities organised by the library staff and the primary teachers. Students are encouraged to read books from a selection of categories and take part in these activities. The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On Immaculate Heart of Mary, I give you my heart. I want to love you. I want to love Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and this world through your holy heart. Amen.

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In my first article for our College’s newsletter, I would like to highlight the importance of bringing our children to Mass every Sunday. As Catholics, Christianity is part of our daily lives. It is who we are. Parents are responsible for the moral and spiritual education of our children so that they can become children of God. Our role as parents is to assist you to teach your children what it means to live a life of a Catholic, through Eucharist, Word, Service and Instruction.

Pope Benedict XVI urges parents to make Sunday Mass a family affair. Addressing a crowd at St Peter’s Square on June 13, 2005, His Holiness said “Parents are called to make their children discover the value and importance of the response to Christ’s invitation, who calls the whole Christian family to Sunday Mass.”

Some might reject what a small child out of the Mass. A 4 year old recently asked me if I what I ate and drank was really the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and before I had the chance to respond, she said, “I know, I know it is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.” Children too are capable of receiving God’s grace.

Your child attends weekly or fortnightly Mass at the school but it is very important that they come with you, as a family, to Sunday Mass in their parish. The moral education and spiritual formation of your children begins by your own formation and growth in the spiritual life. This is important because parents cannot give what they themselves do not possess.

Every time we take our children to Mass and every time the Priest holds up the Eucharist, the parent can point out to their child and say, “That’s Jesus.” I look forward to meeting you all at Sunday Mass this week at St Charbel’s Parish!

For information about Sunday Masses, visit the website: www.stcharbel.org.au

Deputy Principal Secondary School
Mr Jaime Rodriguez

As we start Term 3 we pray in particular for the success of our Year 12 students as they commence their period of HSC Trial Examinations. We hope that all the preparation and effort that both students and teachers have put in bears fruit in the form of excellent performance. We began Term 3 with new energy and enthusiasm. There is still plenty of work to do and lots of learning to be gained. Year 10 have had their Work Experience week and have returned to normal timetabled lessons. The excitement of subject selection towards Stage 6 is clear on the horizon.

It is also an opportune time to remind our community about the importance of setting high standards. Students’ uniforms will be monitored closely. Students will be asked to rectify any issues immediately. We are following up closely on the inappropriate use of language. Students found swearing and/or using foul language will be suspended. The importance of appropriate conduct at all times must become a part of everyone. Warning letters are not allowed during school hours. Fines may be issued to those who continue to contradict this rule. Attendance and punctuality are of the utmost importance as well. Consequences for repeated lateness will be administered. Parents must send a note to school explaining their child’s absences from school.

Most, if not all, of the issues of unpleasant consequences to students can be avoided with the support of parents. We are all interested in setting high standards as this can only bring benefits to our whole community. I hope Term 3 can be a productive and enjoyable one for everyone.

Deputy Principal Primary School
Ms. Marie-Claire Hawwa

Welcome to Semester 2! There are several exciting initiatives occurring this term starting with the Jeans for Genes day, the Gutsy Food Challenge and before that the OLIVS liturgy cycle. For students who are living a healthy lifestyle, that means no sugary drinks, no fried foods and no white processed carbohydrates e.g. pastries, cakes, biscuits. These foods fill the body with free radicals that cause diseases and actually confuse the body’s natural salivation mechanisms. We must remember to care for our bodies as God told us in 1Corinthians 3:16: Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

Make the most of this Gutsy Challenge this term by taking the time to prepare fresh fruit and vegetable meals together as a family. This will create a life time of health benefits and good habits.

I am excited to announce that I will be supporting Years 1 to 3 in Literacy by spending an hour a week in each class this term. Next term I plan to support Literacy in Years 4 to 6. It is wonderful to see all the great learning occurring in the classrooms!

Library News
Ms Christine Goltz

• Please come to our Book Parade on the 23rd of August at 2.15 of August the theme is Champions Read
• Thanks to all the primary students who are participating in the “Champions Read” Book Week activities. Students and classes are producing many excellent displays and competition items. Numerous awards and prizes will be given to students and classes in recognition of their excellent efforts.
• Displays of Book Week Books, Class projects and Student works will be exhibited in the library for the enjoyment of students, parents and staff.
• Encourage your children to return their library books promptly and bring their library cards to school every day.
• Year 12 textbook order forms have been distributed to Year 11. If you would like to purchase textbooks from Yorke, please fill in the order form and return to the library WITHOUT money by the 19th of September. On Tuesday the 9th of October, Yorke books will be selling Year 12 textbooks to students in the Library Seminar room. Please do not receive money with orders.

LOTE Coordinator-Secondary Mr Melhem Kairouz

FIGHT THE COLD WAR

Due to the generous response from parents, staff and students, we collected over 130 blankets for people in need. The organisations, including St Vincent’s, Drug, Arms, Aussie Helpers and Holroyd Community Centre, were overwhelmed by the support. On behalf of the Yr 10 PDHPE cohort, thank you to all parents, students and staff who donated to this wonderful cause.

PDHPE Coordinator-Secondary Mr Charlie Shalala

RAPS is an Adolescent Family Therapy service that specialises in adolescent issues. RAPS has experienced social workers and psychologists working with families. Some of the problems this service may address include: conflict, relationship difficulties, violent behaviour, depression and self harm, difficulties with parenting in adolescence, substance abuse, running away from home, persistent truancy and school problems. RAPS has an intake system that ensures that young people and families contacting the service are seen promptly for an initial meeting. The service usually charges a small means tested fee but this is negotiable based on family circumstances. If you wish to discuss a potential referral you may contact one of the clinical coordinators below:

Lyndal Power (Mon-Thurs) Or Yvonne Strasser (Mon-Wed)
Address: Suite 102, Level 1, 18-20 Ross Street, North Parramatta,
NSW 2151. Phone: (02) 9890 1500 Toll Free: 1800 654 648

Counsellor’s Corner Mr Ramsey Andrews

The P&F Association continues to support and serve the college through financial, commitment & generosity of its committee members. I urge more parents to become involved and to serve for at least one year through your child’s educational life at St Charbel’s College. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming events
• Father’s Day Mass, Morning tea & primary gift stall: Friday 31/8/12
• Uniform Shop: open every Friday (except school holiday)
2:30pm-3:30pm
• All uniforms in good condition can be left at the school office.

UPCOMING EVENTS
August 2012:
- Tues, 7 August Teaching and Learning Conference
- Thurs, 9 August Parents’ Night: Year 7 Information Evening
- Wed, 15 August Feast of Assumption
- Wed, 22 August Year 4 Information Evening
- Wed, 15 August Secondary Year 8 Information Evening
- Wed, 22 August Book Week: Champions Read
- Wed, 29 August Year 8 Information Evening

September 2012:
- Mon, 3 September Year 8 Spirituality Day
- Mon, 10 September Year 10-21 XAT Examinations
- Fri, 14 September Year 8 Spirituality Day
- Wed, 19 September Year 12 Graduation
- Fri, 21 September last day of Term 3

Mrs Mary Wells
Primary Rec Report

St Charbel’s Feast Day ushered in our third term. Students will be celebrating his feast in a variety of ways. Our Grade Two students are preparing a presentation program on the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will culminate in the reception of the 10th August. Students who have not completed the program due to absences will need to apply to the Parish to complete their program and make their First Reconciliation. Meanwhile the Grade Three students are preparing for their First Holy Communion to be held early in Term Four.

LOTE Coordinator-Primary Mrs Marie Sandrussi

Fathe r Dann y Akiki

FOR information about Sunday Masses, visit the website: www.stcharbel.org.au

P & F Corner
Mrs Zen a Kha li – President

P S C H O O L  S A I L S

The NEW short sleeve Sport Polo for both Primary and Secondary have now arrived at Saucma School Uniform shop in Punchbowl and are available for purchase.

SAUCMA UNIFORM SHOP

The NEW short sleeve Sport Polo for both Primary and Secondary have now arrived at Saucma School Uniform shop in Punchbowl and are available for purchase.

A new HOMEWORK CLUB will be running every Tuesday & Friday mornings
Come along to these sessions if you wish to get some extra assistance with your homework.

At least one student of all ages are welcome to attend.

Where:
N108
Time: 8:00-8:30 am

Mrs Zidros and Geoffery Wong, Maths Department

Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card or directly into our bank account.

School Fees

Second instalment for school fees is now due. Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card or directly into our bank account. (Please family code must be included otherwise your account may not be matched.)

Arrangements may also be made by Centrelink.